Amendments to the Claims:

Applicant reserves the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A gas turbine engine for power generation, comprising:

a rotationally mounted rotor having a longitudinal axis;

an axial compressor arranged coaxially along a rotor that produces a compressed intake fluid flow;

a combustion chamber arranged downstream of the compressor which receives the fluid flow and a fuel, and combusts the fluid flow and the fuel to form a hot working medium;

an annular diffuser for diverting the fluid flow having an outer wall and an inner wall arranged coaxially along the longitudinal axis between the axial compressor and the combustion chamber; and

an annular distribution element arranged coaxially along the longitudinal axis of the rotor, ~~and~~ between the inner and outer walls of the diffuser, and having an opening which faces the fluid flow ~~in order to create~~and creates a cooling air part-stream of the compressed fluid flow, the distribution element opening arranged on the leading edge of the distribution element and forming an annular opening in a central region between the outer wall and the inner wall.; ~~and~~

15. (previously presented). The gas turbine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the diffuser further comprises a plurality of hollow supporting elements arranged between the inner and outer walls of the diffuser and the annular distribution element

16. (currently amended) The gas turbine as claimed in claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ an annular gap opening is segmented along the circumference of the annular distribution element.

17. (previously presented) The gas turbine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the inner and outer walls of the diffuser diverge along the direction of flow upstream of the distribution element.

18. (previously presented) The gas turbine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the annular distribution element is arranged centrally between the two diverging walls of the diffuser and has a wedge shape defined by two walls such that each distribution element wall and the adjacent diffuser wall form two annular part-passages for the fluid.

19. (currently amended) The gas turbine as claimed in claim 18, wherein each of the two part-passages have a substantially constant cross section over ~~the~~ each flow length of the two part-passages.

20. (currently amended) The gas turbine as claimed in claim 15, wherein the hollow supporting elements route ~~the~~ a cooling fluid through an interior of the hollow supporting elements and are supported against the diffuser inner wall.

21. (previously presented) The gas turbine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the part-stream is routed toward the rotor by the inner supporting elements.

22. (currently amended) The gas turbine as claimed in claim 14, wherein a cavity in the hollow supporting element is connected to an annular passage located radially inward of the diffuser inner wall.

23. (previously presented) The gas turbine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the fluid is compressor air.

24. (currently amended) The gas turbine as claimed in claim 14, wherein a tube extends through ~~the~~ a cavity in ~~the~~ a plurality of outer supporting elements and is connected to a nozzle located downstream of the distribution element opening, the nozzle adapted to inject a cooling fluid into the part-stream fluid flow to evaporatively cool the part-stream flow.

25. (currently amended) The gas turbine as claimed in claim ~~14~~24, wherein a fuel supply tube extends through the cavity in the outer supporting elements and is connected to a passage in the distribution element that connects with the radially inner part-passage so a fuel can be introduced into the part-passage.

26. (currently amended) The gas turbine as claimed in claim ~~25~~24, wherein the ~~liquid~~ cooling fluid is water.

27. (previously presented) The gas turbine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the compressed intake fluid flow is gaseous.

28. (currently amended) A diffuser for a gas turbine for power generation, that receives a compressor discharge fluid flow, comprising:

an inner wall forming a radially inner side of the diffuser;

an outer wall forming a radially outer side of the diffuser that provides a flow passage having an inlet and an outlet where the inner and outer walls increasingly diverge along the direction of fluid flow;

an annular distribution element arranged coaxially along a longitudinal axis and between the inner and outer walls of the diffuser having ~~an~~ a centrally located opening ~~in order to create~~that creates a cooling air part-stream of ~~a~~ the compressor discharge fluid flow, and the distribution element creates a radially outward and a radially inward streams that coaxially surround the centrally located part stream, where the distribution element opening is arranged on a leading edge of the distribution element and ~~forming~~ forms an annular opening in a central region between the outer wall and the inner wall; ~~and~~

a plurality of hollow supporting elements arranged between the inner and outer walls of the diffuser and the annular distribution element;

a tube having a nozzle routed through one of the plurality of hollow outer supporting elements, where the nozzle is arranged within the annular opening of the distribution element and injects a cooling fluid into the cooling air part-stream; and

a fuel supply tube extending through a further hollow outer supporting element of the plurality of hollow supporting elements that connects to a passage in the distribution element connected to the radially inner part-passage that defines the radially inward stream and introduces a fuel into the radially inner part-passage.

29.-31. (canceled).